



Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies
The Montana Coalition

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Executive Director

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TO: The Children, Families, Health and Human Services Interim Committee

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Montana is the contracted technical assistant for the MT Children's Trust Fund and we are in favor of the increase in the Endowment for Children.

The MT Children's Trust Fund is *THE* entity that is tasked with prevention of childhood trauma and maltreatment in Montana. When there is a lack of prevention resources for ages 0-3, it puts a strain on the entire health care system. It is imperative to invest our public dollars on evidence based programs that improve and enhance infant brain development if we want to reduce the devastating impact of adverse childhood experiences or ACE.

Increasing the Endowment for Children would be a socially and economically cost effective investment in the prevention of childhood trauma. The MT Children's Trust Fund is accomplishing great work with minimal funding at the grassroots level. They are bringing evidence-based prevention services to communities small and large– based on what that individual community needs for its children.

The timing of the increase in endowment funds is crucial. Many Montana communities are undergoing early childhood needs assessments and will be well-prepared to articulate their specific needs to the MT Children's Trust Fund. Thus, by collaborating with existing local, state, federal and private dollars, The MT Children's Trust Fund can continue to weave together a system that supports parent support and education which strengthens families.

As excellent stewards of their precious resources, you can feel confident that the MT Children's Trust Fund will continue to build a system of services that support and educate parents to strengthen Montana families for decades to come.

Sincerely,

Melisa Kaiser Synness
Executive Director

CHILDREN & FAMILIES INTERIM COMMITTEE
August 20-21, 2012 Meetings
August 20, 2012 Exhibit 6

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies ensures that no Montana babies zero to three are in jeopardy, and instead are welcome, safe, healthy and, treasured!



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